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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WATERFOWL HUNTING QUESTIONNAIRE BEING MAILED

Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said today that a previously announced questionnaire concerning this season's waterfowl hunting is now being mailed by the Service to a number of hunters throughout continental United States.

The chief purpose of the questionnaire, the Director said, is to determine as accurately as possible the extent of the waterfowl hunting kill for the season in order that a proper balance between bird harvest and hunting regulations may continue to be maintained.

The hunters who may expect to receive the questionnaire are those who filled out card forms at United States Post Offices when they purchased their 1952-53 Federal "duck stamps". Approximately 150 post offices in different parts of the Nation were selected for this purpose by the Service, to give a representative sample of American waterfowl hunters.

Information obtained from the questionnaire will be used to determine the total shooting kill of ducks, geese and coots in the States and Alaska, and to assess the degree of participation of waterfowl hunters.

A new approach, this survey is being used nationally for the first time this year. Controlled studies have demonstrated its superiority over systems previously used.

The Director urged all waterfowl hunters who receive a questionnaire to fill it out as promptly and as completely as possible. The self-addressed envelope, he explained, does not require postage.

"Some hunters," the Director said, "have really gone all-out in their efforts to co-operate. One hunter not only returned the questionnaire promptly but also included his hunting license and duck stamp. Several other hunters enclosed their State license stub reports of upland and big game kill. This fine spirit of co-operation is greatly appreciated. A completed waterfowl questionnaire, however, is all the Service requires in this survey."

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